



United States
Department of
Agriculture

October 14, 1999

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

SUBJECT: Y2K Compliance

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

TO: Veterinary Services Customers and Collaborators

Washington, DC
20250

With less than 100 days until we reach January 1, 2000, I am pleased to announce Veterinary Services has reached Y2K compliancy in all aspects of the mission critical services we provide to the American public. Since our last Y2K status update, we have completed redevelopment of our major computer applications, have validated these applications for Y2K readiness, and have developed written contingency plans for all office locations. These contingency plans will help to ensure that we can provide continuous delivery of our major services, even if there are disruptions in public utilities or communications.

During the next few months, the VS offices with which you usually do business will be providing alternative phone numbers and procedures for your use in the event that disruptions occur during the first two weeks of January 2000. If you need this information and have not yet received it, please call the office directly or send us an electronic mail message at VSY2K@usda.gov.

In addition to our efforts at the local office level, we have established a Y2K command center at the national level in Riverdale, Maryland. This center will be staffed from late December, 1999 through the first part of January to provide coordination and oversight. Through the command center we will be checking the status of each of our offices to assure the availability of services beginning January 1, 2000.

I trust that each of our collaborators and customers has taken the time to make certain their own business processes are Y2K compliant. Animal agriculture remains an important component of our nation's economy and lifestyle. By working together we can ensure that there will be no interruption in the delivery of our services throughout the New Year season and on into the next century.

/s/ Thomas E. Walton for

Alfonso Torres
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services



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